

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a survey for a client on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a survey document having questions and answers in a certain format for delivery to a client on a network, the format defining branches for the questions, wherein whether a first one of the questions branches to a second one of the questions or to a third one of the questions, depends on an answer for the first question; and

10 providing instructions for delivery to the client on the network, which cause the client to display on a user interface certain ones of the questions, including the first one of the questions, and branch to and display on the user interface the second or third one of the questions responsive to an answer received for the first question.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document the questions and answers are defined as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, that describe the data elements and wherein the question branches are defined as associations among the data elements.

20 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the instructions comprise instructions for causing the client to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having cross-references defining associations among questions and answers.

4. The method of claim 2, comprising the step of:

providing a data type definition file for delivery to the client on the network, wherein the instructions include instructions for causing the client validate the data elements responsive to the document type definition file.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the instructions are included in a document that includes information for displaying by a browser running on the client and directions for how the browser should display the information, and the instructions include instructions in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the programming language includes Java.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the programming instructions include instructions for causing the client to return survey results to a server as a document defining the answers as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.

8. A computer program product for generating a survey for a client on a network, the computer program product comprising instructions for delivery to a client on a network, wherein the instructions are for causing the client to display on a user interface, responsive to a survey document, certain questions, including a first one of the questions, and branch to and display on  
5 the user interface second or third ones of the questions responsive to the survey document and an answer received for the first question, and wherein the survey document has questions and answers in a certain format defining branches of the questions, wherein whether the first one of the questions branches to the second one of the questions, or to the third one of the questions, depends on an answer for the first question.

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9. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein according to the certain format of the survey document the questions and answers are defined as data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, that describe the data elements and wherein the question branches are defined as associations among the data  
15 elements.

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10. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the instructions comprise instructions for causing the client to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having cross-references defining associations among questions and answers.

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11. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the instructions include instructions for causing the client validate the data elements responsive to a document type definition file.



15. A server comprising:

a processor for connecting to a network;

a storage device coupled to the processor, wherein the storage device is for storing:

a survey document having questions and answers in a certain format defining

branches of the questions, wherein whether a first one of the questions branches to a  
second one of the questions, or instead to a third one of the questions, depends on an  
answer for the first question, and

instructions for causing a client to display on a user interface, responsive to the survey  
document, certain questions, including the first one of the questions, and branch to  
and display on the user interface the second or third one of the questions responsive to  
the survey document and an answer received for the first question.

16. The server of claim 15, wherein according to the certain format of the survey  
document the questions and answers are defined as data elements included in the survey  
document as strings of text surrounded by text markups, including tags, that describe the data  
elements and wherein the question branches are defined as associations among the data elements.

17. The server of claim 16, wherein the instructions comprise instructions for causing the  
client to parse the data elements from the survey document into data arrays having  
cross-references defining associations among questions and answers.

18. The server of claim 17, wherein the instructions include instructions for causing the client validate the data elements responsive to a document type definition file.

19. The server of claim 18, wherein the instructions are included in a document that  
5 includes information for displaying by a browser running on the client and directions for how the browser should display the information, and the instructions include instructions in an object oriented, interpreted, dynamic programming language.

20. The server of claim 19 wherein the programming language includes Java.

21. The server of claim 15, wherein the programming instructions include instructions  
for causing the client to return survey results to the server as a document defining the answers as  
data elements included in the survey document as strings of text surrounded by text markups,  
including tags, wherein the text markups describe the data elements.